

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of providing users with alert messages, the method comprising:

monitoring receipt of a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a particular alert feed is detected;

deteeting receipt ofreceiving an alert feed from a remote server included in the one or more remote servers, the alert feed being one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds;

determining whether the received alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the received alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user;

providing information based on the received alert feed to the first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the first electronic device; and

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic device being different from the first electronic device, and

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the second electronic device; and

providing the user with an alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on determining that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 further comprising:

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is in accordance with alert preferences associated with the user conditioned on determining, using the first electronic device, that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed, and

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is in accordance with alert preferences associated with the user conditioned on determining, using the second electronic device, that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed, wherein

providing the user with the alert message associated with the received alert feed includes providing the user with the alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on

determining that the received alert feed is in accordance with the alert preferences associated with the user.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein providing the user with the alert message includes providing the user with an alert message that includes information about a condition that triggered the alert feed.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein providing the user with the alert message includes providing the user with an alert message that includes information about the alert feed.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein providing the user with an alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on detecting determining that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed includes:

determining whether the user has requested offline notification of the particular alert feed; and

sending the alert message to an offline device associated with the user conditioned on determining that the user has requested offline notification.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving information indicating that the user has requested to receive the alert message when receipt of the particular alert feed is detected includes receiving information that the particular user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a user-specific alert feed corresponds corresponding to the user is detected.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein the particular user-specific alert feed corresponding to the user includes one of a-an electronic mail alert corresponding to the user's electronic mail or a-an electronic calendar alert corresponding to the user's electronic calendar.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving information indicating that the user has requested to receive the alert message when receipt of the particular alert feed is detected includes receiving information that the particular user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a general alert feed included in the group of general alert feeds is detected, the general alert feed corresponds corresponding to a group of users, the group of users including the user and at least one other user.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46 wherein the particular-general alert feed includes one of a stock alert, a weather alert, or a news alert.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving information indicating that a-the user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a particular alert feed is detected includes receiving an alert registration, the alert registration being generated based on user input supplied by the user.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48 wherein receiving the alert registration includes receiving an alert registration that indicates that the user desires to enable alert capabilities for one or more of the monitored plurality of alert feeds including the particular alert feed.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein receiving information indicating that the user has requested to receive the alert message when the particular alert feed is detected includes accessing a subscriber record associated with the user.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50 wherein accessing the subscriber record includes accessing a subscriber record that indicates one or more of the monitored plurality of alert feeds including the particular alert feed from which the user desires alerts.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein accessing the subscriber record includes accessing a subscriber record that includes alert preferences.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52 wherein accessing the subscriber record that includes the alert preferences includes accessing a subscriber record that includes alert preferences that include conditions for providing the alert message, wherein providing the user with the alert message is conditioned on the received alert feed meeting the conditions.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51-52 wherein accessing the subscriber record that includes the alert preferences includes accessing a subscriber record that includes alert preferences that include a presentation method for alerts, wherein

providing the user with the alert message includes providing the user with the alert message in accordance with the presentation method.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers includes continuously searching for the plurality of alert feeds.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds based on a triggering event.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds in response to changes of state.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds upon occurrence of changes of state.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the received alert feed was broadcast from the remote server in response to a change in state detected at the remote server.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the change in state includes an updated condition occurring internal to the remote server.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the change in state includes a change to monitored content stored at the remote server.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the change in state includes a change to content made available by the remote server.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the change in state includes an updated condition occurring external to the remote server.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers includes monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from a plurality of remote servers, the plurality of remote servers including a first remote server configured to broadcast a user-specific alert feed and a second remote server configured to broadcast a general alert feed, the second remote server being different from the first remote server at least two servers that are different from each other and configured to broadcast alert feeds of different types.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from the plurality of remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, includes monitoring receipt of a user-specific alert feed corresponding to the user by monitoring receipt of a-an electronic mail alert feed broadcast from a-an electronic mail server in response to the user receiving an electronic mail message and monitoring receipt of a general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from the plurality of remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, includes monitoring receipt of a first general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a news alert feed broadcast from a news server and monitoring receipt of a second general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

67. (Currently Amended) A computer program for providing users with alert messages, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

monitoring receipt of a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a particular alert feed is detected;

receiving~~detecting~~receipt of an alert feed from a remote server included in the one or more remote servers, the alert feed being one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds;

determining whether the received alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the received alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user;

providing information based on the received alert feed to the first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the first electronic device; and

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic device being different from the first electronic device, and

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the second electronic device; and

providing the user with an alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on determining that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed.

68. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 67 further comprising instructions for:

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is in accordance with alert preferences associated with the user conditioned on determining, using the first electronic device, that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed, and

conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is in accordance with alert preferences associated with the user conditioned on determining, using the second electronic device, that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed, wherein

providing the user with the alert message associated with the received alert feed includes providing the user with the alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on determining that the received alert feed is in accordance with the alert preferences associated with the user.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein receiving information indicating that the user has requested to receive the alert message when the particular alert feed is detected includes receiving an alert registration, the alert registration being generated based on user input supplied by the user.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 76 wherein receiving the alert registration includes receiving an alert registration that indicates that the user desires to enable alert capabilities for one or more of the monitored plurality of alert feeds including the particular alert feed.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein receiving information indicating that the user has requested to receive the alert message when the particular alert feed is detected includes accessing a subscriber record associated with the user.

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 71 wherein accessing the subscriber record includes accessing a subscriber record that indicates one or more of the monitored plurality of alert feeds including the particular alert feed from which the user desires alerts.

73. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 72 wherein accessing the subscriber record includes accessing a subscriber record that includes alert preferences.

74. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 73 wherein accessing the subscriber record that includes the alert preferences includes accessing a subscriber record that includes alert preferences that include conditions for providing the alert message, wherein providing the user with the alert message is conditioned on the received alert feed meeting the conditions.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers includes continuously searching for the plurality of alert feeds.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds based on a triggering event.

77. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds in response to changes of state.

78. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the one or more remote servers are configured to broadcast alert feeds upon occurrence of changes of state.

79. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 67 wherein the received alert feed was broadcast from the remote server in response to a change in state detected at the remote server.

80. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 67 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers includes monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from a plurality of remote servers, the plurality of remote servers including a first remote server configured to broadcast a user-specific alert feed and a second remote server configured to broadcast a general alert feed, the second remote server being different from the first remote server at least two servers that are different from each other and configured to broadcast alert feeds of different types.

81. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 80 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from the plurality of remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, includes monitoring receipt of a user-specific alert feed

corresponding to the user by monitoring receipt of a-an electronic mail alert feed broadcast from a-an electronic mail server in response to the user receiving an electronic mail message and monitoring receipt of a general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

82. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 80 wherein monitoring receipt of the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from the plurality of remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, includes monitoring receipt of a first general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a news alert feed broadcast from a news server and monitoring receipt of a second general alert feed by monitoring receipt of a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

83. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for monitoring receipt of a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

means for receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message when receipt of a particular alert feed is detected;

means for receivingdetecting receipt of an alert feed from a remote server included in the one or more remote servers, the alert feed being one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds;

means for determining whether the received alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

means for, conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the received alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user;

providing information based on the received alert feed to the first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and  
means for determining, using the first electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the first electronic device; and  
means for, conditioned on the received alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the received alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic device being different from the first electronic device, and  
determining, using the second electronic device, whether the received alert feed is the particular alert feed based on the information provided to the second electronic device; and

means for providing the user with an alert message associated with the received alert feed conditioned on determining that the received alert feed is the particular alert feed.

84. (Currently Amended) A method of providing users with alert messages, the method comprising:

monitoring a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message corresponding to a particular state change at a particular remote server, the particular remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to a state change at a remote server, the remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

determining whether the detected alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the detected alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user;

providing information based on the detected alert feed to the first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the first electronic device; and

conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the detected alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic device being different from the first electronic device, and

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the second electronic device; and

providing the user with an alert message associated with the state change conditioned on determining that the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to the state change at the remote server comprises detecting that an alert feed broadcast by the remote server corresponds to the state change at the remote server.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are continuously or periodically broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to the state change at the remote server comprises analyzing the alert feed to determine that a state of the remote server has changed.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are continuously broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are periodically broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

90. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 84 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from a plurality of remote servers, the plurality of remote servers including a first remote server configured to broadcast a user-specific alert feed and a second remote server configured to broadcast a general alert feed, the second remote server being different from the first remote server at least two servers that are different from each other and configured to broadcast alert feeds of different types.

91. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 90 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from athe plurality of remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users, includes monitoring a user-specific alert feed corresponding to the user by monitoring aan electronic mail alert feed broadcast from aan electronic mail server in response to the user receiving an electronic mail message and monitoring a general alert feed by monitoring a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

92. (Currently Amended) A computer program for providing users with alert messages, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

monitoring a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message corresponding to a particular state change at a particular remote server, the particular remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to a state change at a remote server, the remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

determining whether the detected alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the detected alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user;

providing information based on the detected alert feed to the first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and

determining, using the first electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the first electronic device; and

conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the detected alert feed to a second electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic device being different from the first electronic device, and

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the information provided to the second electronic device; and

providing the user with an alert message associated with the state change conditioned on determining that the state change at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 92 wherein detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to the state change at the remote server comprises detecting that an alert feed broadcast by the remote server corresponds to the state change at the remote server.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 92 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are continuously or periodically broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 94 wherein detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to the state change at the remote server comprises analyzing the alert feed to determine that a state of the remote server has changed.

96. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 94 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are continuously broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 94 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring alert feeds that are periodically broadcast by the one or more remote servers and that indicate the state of the one or more remote servers.

98. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 92 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds includes monitoring the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from a plurality of remote servers, the plurality of remote servers including a first remote server configured to broadcast a user-specific alert feed and a second remote server configured to broadcast a general alert feed, the second remote server being different from the first remote server at least two servers that are different from each other and configured to broadcast alert feeds of different types.

99. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 98 wherein monitoring the plurality of alert feeds broadcast from a the plurality of remote servers includes monitoring a user-specific alert feed corresponding to the user by monitoring a-an electronic mail alert feed broadcast from a-an electronic mail server in response to the user receiving an electronic mail message and monitoring a general alert feed by monitoring a stock alert feed broadcast from a stock server.

100. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for monitoring a plurality of alert feeds broadcast from one or more remote servers, the plurality of alert feeds including a group of user-specific alert feeds that are each associated with an event specific to a particular user and a group of general alert feeds that are each associated with an event related to multiple users;

means for receiving information indicating that a user has requested to receive an alert message corresponding to a particular state change at a particular remote server, the particular remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

means for detecting that one of the monitored plurality of alert feeds corresponds to a state change at a remote server, the remote server being included in the one or more remote servers;

means for determining whether the detected alert feed corresponds to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds or an alert feed in the group of general alert feeds;

means for, conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the group of user-specific alert feeds:

determining that a specific user associated with the detected alert feed is the user;  
identifying a first electronic device assigned to process alerts associated with the  
user;

providing information based on the detected alert feed to the first electronic  
device assigned to process alerts associated with the user, and

means for determining, using the first electronic device, whether the state change  
at the remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on  
the information provided to the first electronic device; and  
means for, conditioned on the detected alert feed corresponding to an alert feed in the  
group of general alert feeds:

providing information based on the detected alert feed to a second electronic  
device assigned to process alerts associated with general alert feeds, the second electronic  
device being different from the first electronic device, and

determining, using the second electronic device, whether the state change at the  
remote server is the particular state change at the particular remote server based on the  
information provided to the second electronic device; and

means for providing the user with an alert message associated with the state change  
conditioned on determining that the state change at the remote server is the particular state  
change at the particular remote server.

101. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a profile server;

an alert multiplexor network including a first alert multiplexor and a second alert  
multiplexor that is different from the first alert multiplexor, the first alert multiplexor being  
assigned to process alerts associated with a particular user and the second alert multiplexor being  
assigned to process alerts associated with a particular type of alert; and

an-a first alert gate, and

a second alert gate, wherein

the profile server is configured to send to the first alert multiplexor a first user  
profile indicating multiple-a user-specific alert alerts of interest for which a-the particular

user associated with the first user profile desires to receive alert messages, the user-specific alert being associated with an event specific to the particular user;

the first alert multiplexor is configured to receive the first user profile from the profile server and send an-a first alert request to the first alert gate requesting that the first alert gate send the first alert multiplexor an alert notification when the first alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to the user-specific alert-one of the multiple alerts of interest,

the first alert gate is configured to monitor multiple alert feeds including an alert feeds-feed corresponding to the user-specific alert multiple alerts of interest and at least one additional alert feed, detect a first alert feed corresponding to the user-specific alertone of the multiple alerts of interest, and send a first alert notification corresponding to the first alert feed to the first alert multiplexor, and

the first alert multiplexor is further configured to send an-a first alert message to the particular user based on in response to the first alert notification,

the profile server is further configured to send to the second alert multiplexor a second user profile indicating a general alert of interest for which the particular user associated with the second user profile desires to receive alert messages, the general alert being a type of alert corresponding to the particular type of alert processed the second alert multiplexor;

the second alert multiplexor is configured to receive the second user profile from the profile server and send a second alert request to the second alert gate requesting that the second alert gate send the second alert multiplexor an alert notification when the second alert gate detects an alert feed corresponding to the general alert,

the second alert gate is configured to monitor multiple alert feeds including an alert feed corresponding to the general alert of interest and at least one additional alert feed, detect a second alert feed corresponding to the general alert of interest, and send a second alert notification corresponding to the second alert feed to the second alert multiplexor, and

the second alert multiplexor is further configured to send a second alert message to the particular user in response to the second alert notification.

102. (Currently Amended) A method for providing alert messages, the method comprising:

receiving a user profile indicating multiple alerts of interest for which a particular user associated with the user profile desires to receive alert messages, the multiple alerts of interest including an electronic mail alert specific to the particular user and a stock alert;

sending an alert request requesting an alert notification upon detection of receipt of an alert feed corresponding to the electronic mail alert or the stock alert-one of the multiple alerts of interest;

monitoring receipt of multiple alert feeds including receipt of alert feeds corresponding to the multiple alerts of interest including the electronic mail alert and the stock alert and receipt of at least one additional alert feed;

detecting receipt of a first alert feed corresponding to the electronic mail alert or the stock alert-one of the multiple alerts of interest;

in response to detecting receipt of the first alert feed, sending a first alert notification corresponding to the first alert feed; and

sending an alert message to the particular user based on the first alert notification.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (New) A method for providing alert messages, the method comprising:

establishing, at a host system, an instant messaging connection with a client device associated with a particular instant messaging user, the instant messaging connection being configured to enable the particular instant messaging user to exchange instant messages with one or more other users;

assigning, for the duration of the instant messaging connection, the particular instant messaging user to an alert multiplexor associated with the host system by performing a hashing technique using information associated with the particular instant messaging user;

providing the alert multiplexor assigned to the particular instant messaging user with information indicating a user-specific alert that the particular instant messaging user is interested

in receiving, the user-specific alert being associated with a first event specific to the particular instant messaging user;

receiving alert information associated with an event specific to the particular instant messaging user;

routing the alert information to the alert multiplexor assigned to the particular instant messaging user;

determining, at the alert multiplexor assigned to the particular instant messaging user, whether the first event specific to the particular instant messaging user has occurred based on the alert information; and

sending, to the particular instant messaging user over the established instant messaging connection, an alert message based on the user-specific alert conditioned on determining that the first event specific to the particular instant messaging user has occurred.